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METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS OF MATTER CONCERNING APRIL, BCMA, AGP-3, AND TACI

Abstract of the invention

This invention concerns interactions among APRIL/G70, AGP-3/BLYS, BCMA, and TACI and related methods of use and compositions of matter. It has been found that (1) sAPRIL/G70 binds to the cell-surface receptors BCMA and TACI on T and B lymphoma cells, resulting in stimulation of proliferation of primary human and mouse B and T cells both in vitro and in vivo; (2) APRIL competes with AGP3's binding to TACI and BCMA; (3) sBCMA inhibits APRIL and AGP3 binding to its receptors; (4) sBCMA ameliorates T cell dependent and T cell independent humoral immune responses in vivo; (5) sTACI inhibits APRIL and AGP3 binding to its receptors and ameliorates T cell dependent and T cell independent humoral immune responses in vivo; and (6) BCMA exhibits similarity with TACI within a single cysteine rich domain located N-terminal to a potential transmembrane domain. These discoveries provides a strategy for development of therapeutics for treatment of autoimmune diseases, and cancer, for prevention of transplant rejection. Disease states and disease parameters associated with APRIL and AGP-3 may be affected by modulation of BCMA or TACI; disease states and parameters associated with TACI can be affected by modulation of APRIL; disease states and parameters can be affected by modulation of any of TACI, BCMA, APRIL and AGP-3 by a single therapeutic agent or two or more therapeutic agents together.